



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396
(808) 983-5300 • Fax: (808) 983-2902

CRUISE REPORT¹

VESSEL: *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise 07-04 (SE-52)

**CRUISE
PERIOD:** May 18–June 7, 2007

**AREA OF
OPERATION:** Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Fig. 1)

**TYPE OF
OPERATION:** Protected Species Division established monk seal field camps and conducted cetacean surveys on islands in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in support of a Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center research project.

ITINERARY:

- 18 May Embarked C. Yoshinaga, S. Canja, J. Lopez, S. Farry, P. von Weller, M. Sullivan, G. Johnson, M. Issa, L. Washington, J. Sprague, A. Kaufman, M. McKinzie, J. Rivera, R. Marshall, J. Jones, C. Vanderlip, J. Eijzenga, H. Eijzenga, S. Kubis, T. Wurth, and B. Becker. Departed Pearl Harbor, Honolulu at 1000 en route to Nihoa Island.
- 19 May Arrived Nihoa Island 1000. Launched Achilles inflatable boat. Deployed T. Wurth, B. Becker, and J. Lopez to conduct census of island. Recovered seal team and departed Nihoa Island 1600 en route to Necker Island.
- 20 May Arrived Necker Island 0800. Launched Achilles inflatable boat. Deployed T. Wurth, B. Becker, and J. Lopez to conduct census of island. Recovered seal team and departed Necker Island 1500 en route to French Frigate Shoals.
- 21 May Arrived French Frigate Shoals 0800. Launched SAFE boat. Disembarked Farry, von Weller, Canja, and Sullivan. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including one 17-ft Boston Whaler boat. Departed French Frigate Shoals 1600 en route to Laysan Island.

¹ PIFSC Cruise Report CR-09-010
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- 23 May Arrived Laysan Island 0800 hours. Launched all skiffs to conduct off-load. Disembarked Johnson, Issa, Washington, and Becker. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Embarked J. Breeden. Departed Laysan Island 1600 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 24 May Arrived Lisianski Island 0800. Launched all skiffs to conduct off-load. Disembarked Sprague, Kaufman, and Wurth. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Departed Lisianski 1600 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- 25 May Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef 0800. Launched all skiffs to conduct off-load. Disembarked Lopez, McKinzie, and Rivera. Off-loaded equipment and supplies, including one 18-ft Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), one 15-ft EdgeWater boat and seven 55-gal drums unleaded gasoline. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef and transited to Ladd Seamount for 0700 arrival.
- 26 May Conducted cetacean surveys around Ladd Seamount. Departed Ladd Seamount 1200 en route to Midway Atoll.
- 26 May Arrived Midway Atoll 1600. Off-loaded equipment and supplies, including four 55-gallon drums of gasoline. Loaded two 55-gallon drums of diesel fuel. Disembarked Breeden. Embarked S. Plentovich, T. Summers, I. Nurzia-Humburg, and E. Christenson.
- 27 May Departed Midway Atoll 0600 en route to Kure Atoll.
- 27 May Arrived Kure Atoll 1400. Launched all skiffs to conduct off-load. Off-loaded equipment and supplies, including one 55-gal drum of unleaded gasoline and one 13-ft Boston Whaler boat. Disembarked Marshall, Jones, Vanderlip, Eijzenga, Eijzenga, and Plentovich.
- 28 May Continued off-load at Kure. Departed Kure Atoll 1600 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- 29 May Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef. Launched SAFE boat. Disembarked Yoshinaga and Kubis to conduct habitat survey of North Island. Recovered SAFE boat 1600. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef 1700 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 30 May Arrived Lisianski Island 0800. Embarked Wurth. Departed Lisianski Island 1700 en route to Laysan Island.
- 31 May Arrived Laysan Island 0800. Disembarked Christenson. Embarked Becker. Conducted cetacean survey following the 100-fathom contour. Departed Laysan Island 1700 en route to French Frigate Shoals.

- 2 June Arrived French Frigate Shoals 0800. Embarked Canja and Quisenberry. Disembarked Summers, and Nurzia-Humburg. Departed French Frigate Shoals 1700 en route to Necker Island.
- 3 June Arrived Necker Island. Conducted seal census of island. Departed Necker Island.
- 4 June Arrived Nihoa Island. Conducted seal census of island. Departed Nihoa Island.
- 5 June Arrived Niihau Island. Conducted boat census of west coast of island. Departed Niihau Island en route to Honolulu.
- 6 June Arrive Pearl Harbor, Honolulu 0800. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked all scientific personnel. End of cruise.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

1. Establish Marine Mammal Research Program field camps at Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, Kure Atoll, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, and French Frigate Shoals. Transport all equipment, supplies, and personnel.

Deployed all camps.
2. Resupply existing U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service field camps at Laysan Island. Transport equipment, supplies, and personnel.

Completed resupply.
3. Establish DOFAW field camp at Kure Atoll.

All Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel and equipment were deployed successfully.
4. Deployed one High-frequency Acoustic Recording Package buoy near Niihau Island.

Project canceled
5. Conduct cetacean surveys at Ladd Seamount and opportunistically during transit between islands.

Cetacean surveys conducted at Ladd Seamount and Laysan Island.

6. Conduct conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts and expendable bathythermograph (XBT) deployments opportunistically.

- a. A total of 10 CTD casts were conducted.
- b. No XBT deployments were conducted.

7. Conduct beach census of Necker and Nihoa Islands.

Beach counts for monk seals were conducted at both sites. A second survey was conducted at Necker Island on the eastbound leg.

SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL:

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Program Management Analyst, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Jessica Lopez, Cooperating Scientist, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)
Shawn Farry, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Paula von Weller, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Mark Sullivan, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Suzanne Canja, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Gretchen Johnson, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Mariana Issa, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Lauran Washington, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Jon Sprague, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Angie Kaufman, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Megan McKinzie, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Justin Rivera, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Robert Marshall, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Jason Jones, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Tracy Wurth, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH
Brenda Becker, Wildlife Biologist, PIFSC, NMFS
Stacy Kubis, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH
Irene Nurzia-Humburg, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH
Tammy Summers, Cooperating Scientist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Elise Christenson, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS
Cynthia Vanerlip, Cooperating Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW)
Jaap Eijzenga, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
Heather Eijzenga, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
Sheldon Plentovich, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
Jimmy Breeden, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS
Michael Quisenberry, Cooperating Scientist, UH Manoa

Submitted by: (/s/Chad Yoshinaga)

Chad Yoshinaga
Chief Scientist

Approved by: (/s/Samuel G. Pooley)

Samuel G. Pooley
Science Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Attachment

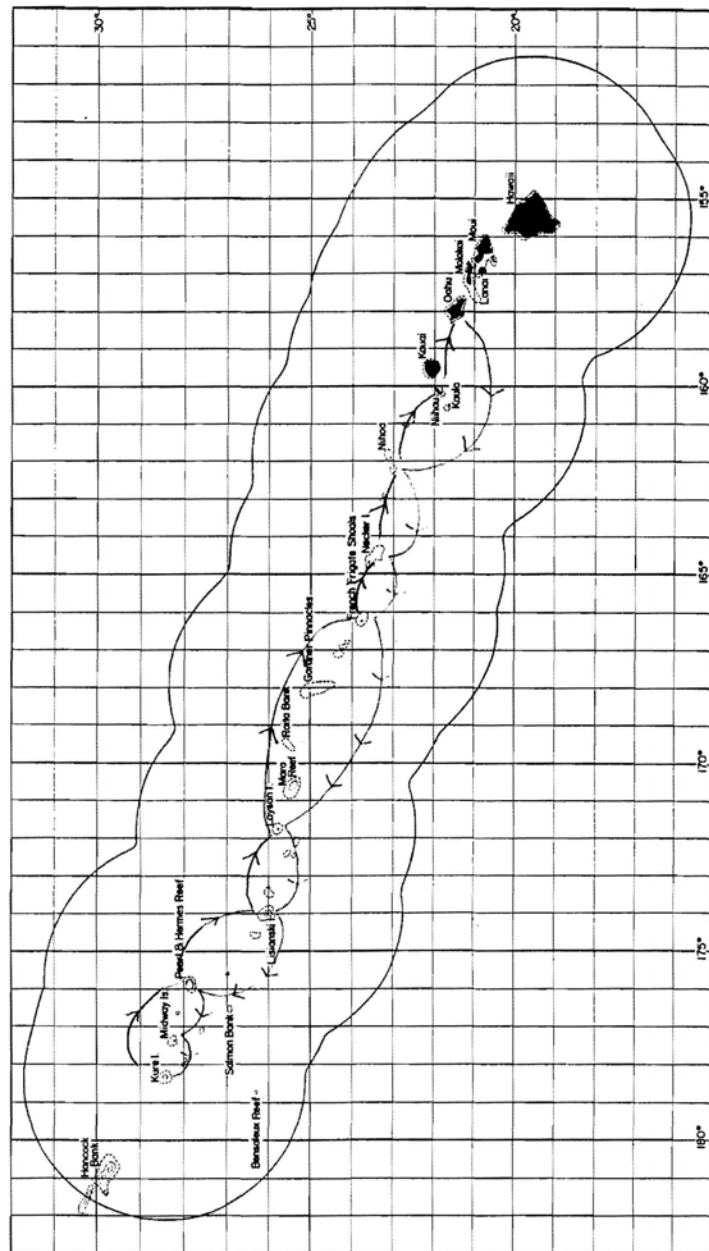


Figure 1.--Track of the NOAA Ship Oscar Elton Sette cruise SE-07-04 (SE-52), May 18-June 7, 2007.